

PUBLIC WORKS/SAFETY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

The Public Works/Safety Committee of the Willmar City Council met on Tuesday, July 15, 2014, in Conference Room No. 1 at the City Office Building.

Present:	Ron Christianson Chair
	Audrey Nelsen Vice Chair
	Bruce DeBlieck Member

Others present: Mayor Frank Yanish; Council Member Jim Dokken; Council Member Tim Johnson; Director of Public Works Sean Christensen; Chief of Police Jim Felt; Public Works Superintendent Scott Ledeboer.

Item No. 1 Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Christianson at 4:55 p.m.

Item No. 2 Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Item No. 3 2014 Consultant Engineering Services (Resolution)

Public Works Director Sean Christensen brought forth for approval the estimated fees associated with the design, materials testing, and construction services provided by Bolton and Menk, Inc. and to enter into a Consultant Service Contract. Clarification was given by Christensen on the estimated fees calculated being included in the existing projects in the bonding bid.

Following discussion, a motion was made by Council Member Nelsen, seconded by Council Member DeBlieck to approve the estimated fees and enter into a Consultant Service Contract with Bolton and Menk, Inc. for the 2014 Consultant Engineering Services. The motion carried.

Item No. 4 Old Business

Public Works Director Sean Christensen presented information on the retention pond's effectiveness in the recent storms this summer. It was noted the ponds did exactly what they were designed to do, with detaining water to let the storm drain system catch up with excess flow of rainfall to the outfall structure. The official rainfall for the month of June was 10.86 inches.

The Committee discussed the 5 Year Street Improvement Plan that uses the Pavement Management Program, established in 1995, to rate the City streets every two years. The streets are assigned a numerical designation on a scale from zero to 100, with zero being the a gravel road condition to 100 being brand new pavement. The ratings of each street are then kept in a database to determine when and what type of repair is needed. When a street is rated in the vicinity of a 71-99, it is eligible for a sealcoat. In the rating range of 60 the street would be in the condition needing a mill and overlay. At a rating of 60 or less the street would be considered for reconstruction. There are over 130 miles of streets within the City. Currently 30.4 miles are rated at 61-75 needing seal coating and 23.6 miles are rated at 60 or less. The Committee questioned the City's liability when a street project is removed from the Improvement Program and the fact that it may possibly deteriorate the street faster without proposed needed repairs. The Committee also questioned whether the Pavement Management Program is a formally adopted policy of the City. Christensen stated he would look into it further to see if it was adopted by the Council at any point in time.

An update on potholes was presented by Public Works Superintendent Scott Ledeboer, stating patching began on May 29th. Of the 31 days available so far this season, 18 days have been used to patch with a total of 281 tons of hot mix. There are 21 street cuts also being patched where the water and sewer lines were repaired. There will be continued patching as the weather allows. The 2014 Seal Coating project is completed, and the Crack Sealing project is just over half done for the year.

Public Works Superintendent Ledeboer explained the mosquito spraying program to the Committee. To date the entire City has been sprayed four times while also spraying at Robbins Island and Baker Field. In addition to the spraying the City applies larvacide in stagnate surface water, primarily storm water ponds.

Public Works Director Christensen presented his findings on the possibility of trial areas of foam used under roadways. Christensen consulted with other City Engineers in the region while researching the topic. With research and other professional opinions combined, Christensen cannot recommend the use of the foam under any of the City streets. The research showed the foam caused numerous inherent issues based on the insulative characteristics, as well as the additional costs to install it at the depth required.

A motion was made by Council Member Nelsen, seconded by Council Member DeBlieck to support the City Engineer's recommendation to not use foam under City streets and remove the possibility of trial areas of foam from any further discussions, with Council Member Christianson dissenting.

Chief of Police Jim Felt noted the jail census for July 15, 2014, was 123, and the calls for service for the previous two weeks totaled 765. The majority of the calls are for traffic, followed by theft and damage to property. There will be extra patrol assigned strictly for Sonshine and a no vacation policy has been put into place for that time period. The event will be billed for the hours of the overtime shifts of the patrol provided to reimburse the City.

Item No. 5 New Business

Council Member Jim Dokken spoke about the recent controlled burn by the Fire Department, questioning when it will be completed and the hole will be filled in. The Fire Chief will be contacted to find a completion date.

Council Member Christianson questioned what happened to the "Welcome to Willmar" sign on the North side. It was informed that an accident had caused the damage to the sign and is still under investigation, so no estimates for replacing it have been completed at this time.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 5:48 p.m. by Chair Christianson.

Respectfully submitted,



Sean Christensen, P.E.
Public Works Director